



CRIME ALERT: July 9, 2020

This crime alert is to inform the CMU community about recent email scams directed at CMU students.

Persons purporting to be CMU faculty members are emailing our students offering them work-study jobs conducting market research for \$250 a week. Students are being asked to deposit pdf, or digital, checks into their accounts to cover "service fees" and then are asked to send cash or gift cards to the suspect matching the value of the checks. The suspect instructs the student to send the card number and security codes and then transfers the funds before the student realizes the money is gone. They also ask for internet applications, like Zelle and Cashapp, to transfer funds. The suspect also inquires about personal information such as age, sex, banking institution and cellphone number.

The suspects involved in these scams are using the identities of CMU faculty members and the messaging can appear to be legitimate.

Community members should not respond to any such messaging nor provide any personal information, banking information or gift card information to strangers. Please use caution when releasing any information via your computer.

You are encouraged to report any scams or related communications to the CMUPD at 412-268-2323 and to the CMU Information Security Office at <https://www.cmu.edu/iso/>.

Sincerely,

Tom Ogden
Chief of University Police

The purpose of CMU Crime and Safety Alerts is to keep the campus community safe by notifying community members of the date, time, location and description of incidents that occur on or near campus that could directly impact members of the campus community. Alerts also share safety and prevention tips that may aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Crime and safety alerts will not include the names of victims or identifying information of suspects, unless approved by the Chief of Police in consultation with the Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. For more information, visit [cmu.edu/police](https://www.cmu.edu/police).